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Summer 7-1-2019

# Acquisition and Provision of Government Publications for Satisfaction of Users' Information Needs in Nigerian University Libraries

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Okwor, Roseline Ngozi MLS; Ihekwoaba, Emmanuel Chukwudi PhD; and Agunwamba, Chidimma, "Acquisition and Provision of Government Publications for Satisfaction of Users' Information Needs in Nigerian University Libraries" (2019). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 2873.

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**Acquisition and Provision of Government Publications for Satisfaction of Users'  
Information Needs in Nigerian University Libraries**

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## ***ABSTRACT***

The purpose of this paper is to determine the strategies for enhancing the acquisition of government publications in Nigerian university libraries. The study seeks to identify the kinds of government documents acquired in university libraries in Nigeria; ascertain the ways they are acquired; determine appropriate ways they documents should be acquired in the libraries; identify the problems affecting their acquisition, and determine strategies for enhancing their acquisition in the libraries. The design of this study is a descriptive survey. The study focused on three academic libraries in the South East geopolitical zone of Nigeria namely: Nnamdi Azikiwe Library, University of Nigeria; Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Library, Umudike and Festus Nwako Library, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. The population of this study comprises of 78 academic librarians in the three university libraries involved in the study. A questionnaire, observation checklist, and oral interview were used in collecting relevant data for the study. Frequency count, percentage and mean were used to analyze the items in the questionnaire. Based on the analysis and the findings, the following recommendations are made: all the Nigerian government presses both at the federal parastatals and state levels should be required by law to publish and distribute at least ones in six months, the lists of all the items they published; There should be increased funds for the management of academic libraries so as to accommodate the increasing purchase of more government publications and taking care of currency; government document libraries should be engaged fully in online subscription of government publications, among others.

**Key Words:** University libraries, Government publications, Acquisition, Information Provision, Information needs, Satisfaction.

## INTRODUCTION

University libraries provide access to knowledge, information resources and works of the imagination through a range of services that are required to be equally available to all members of the university community regardless of race, nationality, age, gender, religion, language, or disability. They house almost every type of information resources like reference resources, periodicals, media resources, trade literature, fiction, nonfiction, and government publications among others.

Government publications are information matter published at government expense or as required by law (Harrod, 2000). They involve any publication from federal, state, local government, or foreign, and of inter-governmental organizations. They are also said to be all information material issued under the authority of any legislative body, executive or judicial department, ministry, bureau, agency, independent office, court, commission, or office of any government. Government publications can be produced in many forms such as books, pamphlet, fliers and non-book forms like compact disc and online recourses, etc. Generally, they should be classified under two categories: the national government publication of the country and the international government documents. It can also be subdivided into legislative, executive and judiciary publications.

The acquisition is the act of acquiring knowledge or books that are relevant to users. Acquisition of government documents is the process of selecting, ordering and receiving materials for inclusion in the government document collection whether by purchase, as gifts, legal deposit, exchange program, or even electronic information retrieval. The strength of the library service rests on its collection (Britain, 1992). One of the major problems facing government librarianship today is the poor provision of bibliographic information resources. The collection provides a focal point for both user and librarian. For the librarian, the traditional concern is with the bibliographical operations: selection, acquisition, and

provision. For the user, the concern has to do with the relevance or appropriateness of the collection to his/her needs, requirements and demands in terms of documents and information. There is a need, therefore, to strike a balance between acquisition and the information needs of the users. Librarians must also maintain a balance between print and electronic materials, between book and nonbook materials, between monographs and periodicals, between the selection of materials and needs of users, between acquisition and use of materials, and between available funds and desired resources.

The thrust of this study is the acquisition and provision of government publications for the satisfaction of users' information needs in Nigerian university libraries. The study seeks to identify the kinds of government documents acquired in university libraries in Nigeria; ascertain the ways they are acquired; determine appropriate ways they documents should be acquired in the libraries; identify the problems affecting their acquisition, and determine strategies for enhancing their acquisition in the libraries.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Through government publications, citizens are informed about the policies, laws, national development plans, services, and programs of government (Smart, 2011). Much important research literature and reference information are found in the reports, bulletins and other publications issued by the various national, state and local governments because they cover topics in nearly all fields of knowledge. Paulson (2013) stated that no research work on almost any African, Nigerian and even local government political or economic issue can be done without recourse to government publications. It will, therefore, be worrisome if these publications are not acquired for use in the university libraries. What, therefore, is the current state of acquisition of government publications in Nigerian university libraries and what could be the strategies for enhancing their acquisition? This constitutes the problem which the study intends to find a solution to.

## **Research Questions**

The following five research questions were formulated to guide the study.

1. What are the kinds of government documents acquired in the libraries under study?
2. In what ways are government document acquired in the libraries?
3. What are the appropriate ways government documents should be acquired in the libraries?
4. What is the problem affecting the acquisition of government publications in the libraries?
5. What are the strategies for enhancing the acquisition of government publications in the libraries?

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Conceptual Framework**

University libraries are libraries attached to, owned and funded by universities and serving the entire university community. Terrace (2012) stressed that preservation and access to knowledge and information is the main mandate of university libraries alongside supporting the mission of their parent institutions which is teaching and research. The objectives of university libraries, according to Okiyi (2003) include supporting expedited access to scholarly resources at the point and place of need. This objective can be carried out through: unifying access to library content, building local collections to address new, evolving, or inadequately supported areas of research and teaching, acquiring special collections that will support a world-class faculty, engage graduates and undergraduate students in primary research, and expanding online access to scholarly resources through digitization and licensing arrangement, and simplifying resources discovery and access to materials regardless of locations or ownership.

A government publication is defined as information matter, which is published as an individual document at government expense or as required by law (Pagelane, 2013). The government document is a concept used variously to refer to government publications, official documents, official publications, public documents, and public records. Harrods (2000) defines it as a publication issued at government expenses or published by the authority of a governmental body. United Nations (2005) opines that government publications are vital or authoritative documents issued by or on behalf of the government or its agencies.

In terms of coverage the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA, 2008) defines government publications as “a record in any form prepared by or from an official source, circulated beyond that source to limited groups or to individuals other than those advising or negotiating with it, or to the general public”. In terms of purpose, Okiyi (2003) asserted that the publications especially those in the form of research findings, committee and commission reports and audio-visual materials, serve as very good materials for research, educational and propaganda purposes. Ezema and Okafor (2010) stated that government publications occupy a critical space in research literature in humanities, social sciences, and science and technology as they provide information regarding public policy statement, statistical evidence, and regulation of activities of organization, institutions and professional associations.

Smart (2011) noted that Government publications contain information valuable for the holistic well being of all citizens throughout their daily lives, as well as for research. Through official government publications, citizens are informed about the policies, laws national development plans, services, and decisions taken by their government. The intelligence is varied and diverse and its manifestation and availability affect the life of every citizen.

Government publications, therefore, are a living record of the efforts of a people to govern themselves (United Nations, 2005). It is through these publications that governments

communicate to the public what policies they adopt, what new laws are in force, what decrees have been promulgated which one had been repealed and so on. Specifically, government publication provides citizens with a reliable base of knowledge concerning laws and other information concerning the social and economic issues of the country. Koga (2005) stated that in order to make the most use of government information, however, “information intermediaries (libraries) must effectively connect citizens to government officials by managing and encouraging access to government information.

Asogwa and Asiegbu (2009) stated that information that originates from the government is called different names in many countries. In Africa and other countries like Australia, United State of America, etc, it is referred to as government publications, government documents, public/official records, government information, among other names.

According to Koga (2005), there are two major types of government publications which in terms of publication are: Published and Non-published documents. Published documents include information products that the government imparts on its own initiative or that it is required to release eg, administrative report, report of committee/ commission/ panel, tribunal proceeding, technical report, statistical report, This type of government publication whether in print and government websites are created for public use. On the other hand, according to Opara (2008), non-published documents are primarily meant to be used within the government and are not for a public consumption eg, Institutional bulletins e.g. WAEC and JAMB question papers, conference, seminar, workshop papers, lectures, memo, and official gazettes.

Acquisition is the act of procuring and obtaining materials. This is the act of acquiring knowledge or books that are relevant to users. Acquisition of government documents is the process of selecting, ordering and receiving materials for inclusion in the library collection whether by purchase, as gifts, legal deposit, exchange program, or even electronic



information retrieval. Acquisition is defined by Edelmam(1977) as the process of verifying, ordering and paying for needed information resources. That is securing resources for a library's collection whether by purchase, as gifts or through an exchange program. Inflanet (2008). Asserts that acquisition and collection development focus on methodical and topical themes pertaining to the acquisition, purchase, selection of print, another tradition format of library materials by purchase, gift, exchange, legal deposit, and electronic information resources

Acquisition department or section is the only gateway to any library's collection development. Although a few librarians still complain about the disappearance of the free document the myth that government is inexpensive has finally been recognized. Adequate acquisition of government publications at all levels is a major budget item for all university and research libraries and should be so treated. Edoka (2009) posited that there are two categories of information resources that are acquired by libraries which are print and non-print materials. Acquisition of government document is mainly through donations, gifts, and deposit from ministries, corporations, parastatals, universities and research institutes (Asogwa, 2010). This has created a serious gap in information between what is in stock and the current issues in society and on the latest trends on governmental publications and activities.

### **Review of Related Empirical Studies**

Ezema and Okafor (2010) carried out research on acquisition and use of government publications in Nnamdi Azikiwe Library, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. This paper examined the acquisition and use of government publications in the University of Nigeria library between 2003 and 2007. Record inspection and observations were used to find out the methods and extent of acquisition of government publications in the university libraries. Findings reveal that the acquisition was mainly through gifts, donations, and legal deposit.

Publications from federal government ministries, parastatals, and government agencies constitute more than eighty percent of the acquisition within the period. The research also reveals that Nigerian legal deposit law is no more effective and that it affects the acquisition of government publications in Nigerian university libraries. The research stressed the need for online acquisition and utilization of government publications in Nigerian university libraries.

In the same view, Udensi (2010) conducted a study on the utilization and strategies for improving the use of Africana Resources in Nigerian University libraries. The population comprised of 89 Africana librarians and 42,873 users. The descriptive survey research design was used. A questionnaire, Interview, and observation checklist were administered to a sampled population of 35 Africana librarians and 1,974 users comprising of postgraduate students and their lecturers and these constitute 10 of each group studied.

The findings revealed that: Africana resources are minimally available in the university libraries, and this availability varies by subject and format across different university libraries. The study also revealed that theses, government documents, monographs, and newspaper/magazines are the most available Africana resources in the university libraries. The research also revealed that the users' discipline influenced the usage of Africana resources. Art-based users consulted Africana materials more than their science-based counterparts. The factors affecting usage of Africana resources include poor acquisition, lack of staff, lack of effective use of ICT tools, lack of users' awareness of available Africana resources.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

The design of this study is a descriptive survey. This study is designed to gather information from a population of librarians and users on the acquisition of government publications in Nigerian university libraries. The area of study is the South East geopolitical

zone of Nigeria consisting of five (5) states namely: Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu, and Imo. However, this study focused on three academic libraries in the South East namely: Nnamdi Azikiwe Library, University of Nigeria; Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Library, Umudike and Festus Nwako Library, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka.

Nnamdi Azikiwe Library is the main library of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. It has a separate government documents section which is, however, under the Special Collection Division of the library. The library is an official depository for documents from the Nigerian government. It is committed to providing free access to government information to its primary users and to the larger community as well. Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike Library was opened in 1993 the same year the university was opened. The government documents are housed under the reference section. Festus Aghagho Nwako Library is the main library of the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. Their government publications collections are housed under the serial section.

The population of this study comprises of 78 academic librarians in the three university libraries involved in the study. No sampling was carried out on academic librarians because the population is manageable enough to be studied.

The following research instrument was used for the study; namely, questionnaire, observation checklist, and oral interview. The questionnaire for librarians (LSAUGPQ) has two parts, part one is demographic data and part two covers items on the research questions. The observation checklist contains a list of items on the availability of government documents in the three libraries which covered research question 1. The observation checklist contains 38 items. The researcher used structured oral interviews to obtain factual information from government document librarians. The questions are 7 in number.

Frequency count and percentage were used to analyze the items in part A of the questionnaire. Tables were used where necessary to summarize data. The rest of the items

were analyzed using mean rating. A criterion mean of 2.50, was adopted. Consequently, any means that ranged from 2.50 and above were regarded as positive while below 2.50 were regarded as negative. For Research questions 3 and 5, the real limits of number was adopted in taking decision consequently, any item with mean of between 1-1.74 was considered not applicable or not appropriate, while any item with a mean of between 1.75-2.49 was considered to be of the very little extent or fairly appropriate. Any item with the mean range of between 2.50 and 3.24 was considered to be of great extent or appropriate while any item with mean of between 3.25 and 4.00 was considered to be of very great extent or very appropriate.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The basis of the analysis is the views of 68 academic librarians who duly filled and returned their questionnaires out of the 78 for academic librarians questionnaires distributed. 10 respondents for academic librarians failed to return theirs. Data obtained from the checklist and oral interviews (qualitative instrument) were used to support and explain the quantitative data.

### **Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**

The frequency distribution and sample characteristics of all the socio-demographic variables are presented below:

**Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of Academic Librarians (N = 68)**

	Frequency	Overall Percent
<b>Name of Libraries of the three selected Schools</b>		
Festus Nwako Library, NAU	20	29.4
MOUA Library	17	25.0
Nnamdi Azikiwe Library, UNN	31	45.6
Total	68	100

The above table indicated that 45.6 percent of the academic librarians were drawn from Nnamdi Azikiwe Library, UNN, while 29.4 percent and 25 percent covered academic librarians from Festus Nwako, NAU and MOUAU Libraries respectively. This shows that UNN library has the highest number of staff and those who responded to the questionnaire instrument.

## Research Question 1

*What are the kinds of government document acquired in the libraries?*

**Table 2: Observation checklist result on the kinds of government document acquired in the libraries**

SN	Item	UNN		MOUA		NAU		Summary	
		A	NA	A	NA	A	NA	A	NA
1	Administrative report of local, state and federal governments in Nigeria	√		√		√		3	-
2	Report of committee/commission/panel	√		√		√		3	-
3	Tribunal proceedings	√			×	√		2	1
4	Technical reports	√		√		√		3	-
5	Statistical report	√		√		√		3	-
6	Institutional bulletins e.g. WAEC and JAMB	√		√		√		3	-
7	Conference, seminar, workshop papers, lectures of governmental organizations.	√		√		√		3	-
8	Official gazettes	√		√		√		3	-
9	Governmental body journals bulletins, newsletters	√		√		√		3	-
10	Top official government members photos, maps & charts.	√		√		√		3	-
11	Parliamentary debates.	√			×		×	1	2
12	Law of the Federation/regions.	√		√		√		3	-
13	Government computer (databases), CD-ROM.		×		×		×	1	2
14	Legal proceedings.	√			×	√		2	1
15	Act of parliament	√			×	√		2	1
16	Memorandums of government		×		×		×	-	3
17	Executive publications, e.g. report of events and activities	√		√		√		3	-
18	Parliamentary publications, e.g. report from the parliaments	√			×	√		2	1
19	Judicial publications, records of activities of the Nigerian police, armies, etc	√			×	√		2	1
20	Publication of international organizations, e.g. OAU, WHO, ECOWAS	√		√		√		3	-
21	Annual report of ministries and governmental departments	√			×		×	2	1
22	Annual report of Quasi-government organizations.		×		×		×	-	3
23	The annual volume of laws.		×		×		×	-	3
24	Bills.	√		√		√		3	-
25	Preliminary debates of the Nigerian government	√		√		√		3	-
26	Nigerian Constitution and Allied Publications	√		√		√		3	-
27	Serials publications of government ministries and Departments e.g. Nigerian trade journal by ministries.	√			×		×	1	2
28	Report of commissions of inquiry, eg Udoji wage, and salary review commission.	√			×		×	1	2
29	Miscellaneous publications which are irregular and occasional publications issued by govt. dept.	√		√		√		3	-
30	Government white paper.	√			×		×	1	2

31	Economic surveys.	√		√		√		3	-
32	Speeches of Heads of state and state governors	√		√		√		3	-
33	Government Annual budget and Estimates.	√		√		√		3	-
34	Federal Governments Acts	√		√		√		3	-
35	Nigerian Constitution and Allied Publications	√			×		×	1	2
36	Parastatals and Organizations and Financial Institutions	√		√		√		3	-
37	Annual Abstracts of Statistic Reports	√			×		×	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
38	Nigeria Newspapers, News Magazines	√		√		√		3	-
		34	4	22	16	27	11	85	29

The kinds of government publications acquired in the libraries vary to some extent. However, the universities have some of the documents in common. These include the administrative report of local, state and federal governments, reports of committee/commission/panel, technical reports, statistical report, institutional bulletins, conference, seminar, workshop papers, lectures of government and organization, official gazettes, and journals bulletins of governmental bodies. Others include newsletters, maps, charts, etc., the law of the Federation/regions, executive publications, a publication of international organizations, bills, preliminary debates of the Nigerian government, Nigerian constitution and allied publications, miscellaneous publications, and occasional publications issued by the government department, and economic surveys. The list also includes speeches of heads of states and state governors, government annual budget and estimates, the federal government acts, parastatals and organizations and financial institutions. The documents which the three universities have in common simply show the ownership status of the universities as all of them are federal universities. The implication is that they all have access to the available government documents

The checklist and interview results also revealed that some documents were not available in all the three libraries. These include government computer (databases), CD-ROM memorandums of government, annual report of quasi-government organizations and the annual volume of laws. This finding shows clearly the gap between the three libraries. For

instance, Nnamdi Azikiwe Library (UNN) and Professor Festus Nwako Library (NAU) have the highest volume of government publications. The reason could be that the two libraries are conventional universities serving a large student population with many faculties and departments while the Federal University of Agriculture Umudike is a specialist university with a smaller student population.

The libraries have few government documents in their possession and most of the documents in their possession are very old and outdated. Government publications in the libraries are gradually going into extinction. The findings of this study are in consonance with the work of Mole (2007) who noted that the supply of Nigerian government publications to registered libraries delays a lot. He went further to say that Nigeria legal deposit law is no longer effective as before.

## **Research Question 2**

### **What are the ways government document are acquired in the Libraries?**

Table 3: Academic librarians' respondents' view on the ways government documents are acquired in the libraries.



	FNL	MOUAU	NAL	Overall	Rank	Decision
	$\bar{X}$	$\bar{X}$	$\bar{X}$	$\bar{X}$		
Items						
1 Donation by individuals, Government bodies & organization e.g. PTF, CBN	3.95	4.00	3.88	3.91	R1	SA
2 Through legal depository	3.95	3.85	3.75	3.82	R2	SA
3 Gift from issuing agencies	3.70	3.85	3.68	3.70	R3	SA
4 Purchase from individual e.g. politicians,	3.90	3.85	3.41	3.60	R4	SA
Organization						
5 Through library tours (Govt. document, Librarian visiting ministries, schools, Organizations, etc to collect material)	3.85	3.57	3.48	3.60	R4	SA
6 Regular visits to government website	3.50	3.42	3.46	3.47	R5	SA
7 Regular contact with government document	3.40	3.42	3.46	3.44	R6	SA
Publisher						
8 Exchange with other libraries	3.55	3.42	3.29	3.38	R7	SA
9 Through online subscription	2.00	1.85	2.17	2.08	R8	D
10 Direct engagement of libr. In Gov.	1.50	1.71	1.46	1.50	R9	NA

**Where ‘SA’ = Strongly Agreed, ‘D’ = Disagree and Not Applicable**

From the results obtained, the study identified seven ways in which government documents are acquired in the studied libraries. They include donation by individuals, government bodies and organization e.g. PTF, CBN, purchase from an individual, legal depository, library tours, a gift from issuing agencies, regular contact with government document publisher, and regular visits to government websites.

The study also identified that online subscription, exchange with other libraries and direct engagements of libraries in government business are not active ways of acquiring government publications in the studied libraries. The study discovered that the three ways of acquisition mentioned above have not been fully appreciated by the libraries. Nevertheless, the studied libraries appear to be very conversant with the seven ways of acquiring official publications.

The finding, however, agrees with the assertion of the National Library of Korea (2010), which stated that National Library of Korea collects national literature, contemporary

knowledge products, as well as cultural heritage in a holistic and systematic way. Collecting resources is the most important basic function of the library. Official publications are collected through submissions by publishers, purchase, donation or international exchange.

### Research Question 3

**What are the appropriate ways government documents should be acquired in the libraries?**

**Table 4: Responses of the academic librarians in appropriate ways for acquiring**

	FNL	MOUAU	NAL	Overall	Rank	Decision
	$\bar{X}$	$\bar{X}$	$\bar{X}$	$\bar{X}$		
Items						
1. Donation by individuals, Government Bodies and organization	4.00	3.57	3.78	3.82	R1	VGE
2. Through legal depository	3.70	4.00	3.65	3.70	R2	VGE
3. A gift from issuing agencies	3.90	3.28	3.51	3.60	R3	VGE
4. Purchase from individual	3.55	3.85	3.46	3.52	R4	VGE
5. Library tours by Govt. doc. Librarians	3.75	3.57	3.51	3.58	R4	VGE
6. Regular visits to government website	3.90	2.85	3.51	3.55	R5	VGE
7. Regular contact with government Document publishers	3.55	3.28	3.24	3.24	R6	GE
8. Exchange with other libraries	1.25	1.42	1.48	1.48	R7	NA
9. Through online subscription	3.80	3.28	3.39	3.50	R8	GE
10. Direct engagement of libraries in government business	1.35	1.28	1.51	1.51	R9	NA

**Where 'VGE'= Very Great Extent, 'GE' = Great Extent, 'NA' = Not Applicable government publication in the libraries.**

Table 4 evaluated the extent to which the items listed in table 6 are appropriate for acquiring government publication in the libraries. From the responses of the academic librarians in the three libraries, it was revealed that donation by individuals, government bodies and organization e.g. PTF, CBN, purchase from individuals e.g. politicians, organizations or ministries, through online subscription, through legal depository, through library tours (government document, librarians visiting ministries, schools, organizations, etc. to collect materials), gift from issuing agencies, regular contact with government document publishers, and regular visits to government website are the appropriate ways to acquire government publications in the libraries. According to the interview conducted, it was shown

that the three libraries do not engage in regular contact with government document publishers and regular visits to the government website at all. Kanwal (2005), was of the opinion that Nigeria libraries should not rely on legal deposit law since it is not dependable. Asogwa (2010) writing in the same vein agreed that exchange, donation, and gift are not the best ways for acquiring government publications. The methods are not reliable since current materials may not be acquired through them. From the findings, it is clear that the libraries have not really explored online subscription as an appropriate way of acquiring government publications.

#### Research Question 4

**What are the problems affecting the acquisitions and utilization of government publications in the libraries?**

**Table 5: Mean of the response of the academic librarians on the Problems affecting the acquisition of the**

	FNL	MOUAU	NAL	Overall	Rank Decision	
Items	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$		
1. Poor compliance with legal deposit law	3.90	4.00	3.82	3.86	R1	SA
2. Lack of official lists of govt. Publ.	3.95	4.00	3.78	3.85	R2	SA
3. Delay in the arrival of govt. publications	3.90	4.00	3.65	3.76	R3	SA
4. Poor online access to govt. Publications	3.85	3.85	3.63	3.75	R4	SA
5. Poor funding.	3.80	3.85	3.68	3.75	R4	SA
5. Inadequate competent government document librarians	3.95	4.00	3.51	3.69	R5	SA
6. Poor bibliographic control	3.75	3.85	3.63	3.69	R5	SA
7. Government documents are not digitized	3.80	3.85	3.58	3.67	R6	SA
8. Lack of current official list of Nigerian government publications	3.80	4.00	3.56	3.67	R6	SA
9. Poor distribution of the govt. documents	3.80	4.00	3.53	3.66	R7	SA
10. Lack of continuity of govt. publications	3.85	4.00	3.48	3.64	R8	SA
11. Inadequate e-government publications	3.85	3.85	3.51	3.64	R8	SA
12. Constant political and administrative changes in the country	3.70	4.00	3.53	3.63	R9	SA

**Where 'SA'= Strongly Agree government publications in the libraries.**

The table above shows the perception of the academic librarians on the problems affecting the acquisition of government publications in the libraries. The study revealed that in the three surveyed academic libraries, the academic librarians identified the following problems as blight to the acquisition of government documents: poor compliance with a legal

deposit law, lack of official lists of government publications, delay in the arrival of government publications, and poor online access to government publications. As stated by Asogwa (2010), in Nnamdi Azikiwe library the annual report 2008 brought it to the notice of users that the volume of government document there is diminishing or coming down gradually. The cause was attributed to the fact that at the initial stage, the legal provisions for the distribution and acquisition of government publications were consciously or unconsciously obeyed by publishers and as a result, great volumes were accumulated. But today the laws are no longer effective probably because there was no penalty for those who may contravene the legal deposit law. Other identified problems include inadequate competent government document librarians, poor bibliographic control, inadequate e-government publications, poor distribution of the government documents, poor funding, lack of continuity of government publications, and poor qualities of government document materials.

Asamoah –Hassan (2000) added that the presentation and appearance of government documents are also most often unattractive, compared to that of products from commercial publishers. They may have long and clumsy titles, no title pages, no indexes, unattractive covers, low-quality papers, poor printing and lack of information on how more copies can be obtained.

**Research question 5: What are the strategies for enhancing the acquisition of government publications in the libraries?**

**Table 6: Responses of the Academic Librarians on the strategies for enhancing the acquisition of the government publication in the libraries**

Items	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$	$\bar{x}$		
1. The government should be strict in penalizing defaulters of Nigerian legal deposit law	3.95	4.00	3.85	3.89	R1	VA
2. A comprehensive listing of government document materials	3.95	3.71	3.78	3.82	R2	VA
3. Training of librarians on government document management	3.90	3.85	3.73	3.79	R3	VA
4. Improved funding	3.75	3.85	3.78	3.77	R4	VA
5. Nigeria government should be involved in e-government publications	4.00	3.71	3.65	3.76	R5	VA
6. Continuous supply of government documents by the publishers	3.80	3.85	3.70	3.75	R6	VA
7. Students should have an interest in the use of Government documents	3.80	3.57	3.75	3.75	R6	VA
8. Comprehensive list of current official list of government publications	3.75	3.71	3.70	3.72	R7	VA
9. Through the distribution of government Documents	3.85	3.85	3.60	3.70	R8	VA
10. Improved online access to government Publications	3.85	3.85	3.60	3.70	R8	VA
11. Proper bibliographic control and online bibliographic database services	3.80	3.57	3.68	3.70	R8	VA
12. Providing more reading facilities	3.75	3.85	3.65	3.70	R8	VA
13. Employing more staff into the library	3.00	3.60	3.69	R 9	VA	
14. Proper bibliographic control and online Bibliographic database searching	3.85	3.71	3.58	3.67	R10	VA
15. Improvement in the quality of access tools	3.65	4.00	3.63	3.67	R10	VA
16. Good documentation of government Documents materials	3.75	3.57	3.63	3.66	R11	VA
17. Well organized bibliographic control	3.60	3.42	3.70	3.64	R12	VA
18 Provision of adequate space for reading and displaying of govt. document	3.55	3.85	3.65	3.64	R12	VA
19 Government document materials should be improved in physical quality	3.70	3.85	3.58	3.64	R12	VA
20 SDI/ CAS for users of government publications	3.70	3.71	3.60	3.64	R12	VA
21. Proper organization of government Publications	3.75	3.57	3.58	3.63	R13	VA
22. Improvement in access to the web	3.85	3.71	3.51	3.63	R13	VA
23 Training/orientation of library users	3.83	3.71	3.51	3.63	R13	VA
24. Good relationship between users and library staff	3.50	4.00	3.60	3.61	R 14	VA
25. Improvement on the use of online public access catalog (OPAC)	3.70	3.85	3.51	3.60	R15	VA
26. Timely provision of govt. document in the library	3.65	3.71	3.56	3.60	R15	VA
27. Continuity in government policies	3.80	3.71	3.46	3.58	R16	VA
28. Digitization of Govt. publications	3.60	3.57	3.53	3.55	R17	VA

Where 'VA'= Very Appropriate.

From table 6, result indicates that the academic librarians agreed on the following strategies for enhancing the acquisition of government documents: Government should be strict in penalizing defaulters of legal deposit laws; there should be comprehensive listing of government document materials; training of librarians on government document management; supplying government document on time in the library; there should be well organized bibliographic control, and provision of adequate space for packing. Additionally, the government should be involved in e-government publications, there should be a thorough distribution of government documents, academic libraries should be appropriately funded, and there should be improved online access to government publications, among others. Proper application of the above strategies will enhance the acquisition and utilization of government publications in the libraries.

In a like manner, Alhassan & Abdulsalam (2013) suggested: an improved level of funding that will enable and encourage the librarians of the government document unit to go out and source for publications emanating from government agencies, departments, offices and so on. The National Library of Nigeria should from time to time make paid advertisements on radio and television to sensitize the various government agencies, departments, and offices to submit willingly publications emanating from them.

### **Recommendation**

The following recommendations based on the finding of the research are made:

1. All the Nigerian government presses both at the federal, parastatals and state levels should be required by law to publish and distribute at least ones in six months, the lists of all the items they published. Some copies should be sent to the National Library of Nigeria and other libraries in their various states. The same should be applying to all publishers of official publication outside the government press. The National library will then compile the list and make it available to all the academic libraries in the country.

2. The reading space and environment in the government document section should be made more comfortable by providing better chairs and other reading materials and also installing air conditioners in the unit.
3. There should be increased funds for the management of academic libraries so as to accommodate increase purchase of more government publications, taking care of currency, of the resources, different formats and subject areas in Nigerian University libraries. This will consequently increase the acquisition and utilization of government documents in Nigeria university libraries.
4. Government document libraries should be engaged fully in online subscription of government publications. All the publishers of government documents should be uploading their publication online for easy acquisition and utilization.
5. There is the need for university libraries to be renewing their bibliographic compilation year after year.
  6. Delaying of the supply of government publications should be stopped. This is because expired information is like an expired drug.
7. Government publication section should be equipped with ICT information retrieval tools and staff here should be trained and retrained in the knowledge and use of ICT in the government document section.
8. Government document should be digitized in Nigerian university libraries to make the utilization easy. This is because digitized materials could be accessed in any university library that is digitized.
9. University libraries should have enough space for the accommodation of both users and books. Also reading tables, fans, air conditioner, and enough space are needed to make the environment conducive for staff and readers.

## **Conclusion**

The government publication contains wide coverage of information ranging from the arts and the sciences valuable to carry out any form of research in the academic environment. Moreover and importantly, a government document resource contains various knowledge concerning the government and politics of the land. There is the need to acquire, organize, preserve and disseminate such information from generation to generation. This study x-rayed the problems associated with the acquisition of government publications and suggested strategies for improving awareness and utilization of government publications in Nigerian university libraries. There is the need for government to be supplying a comprehensive list of their publications regularly. University libraries should have enough and conducive space for library users to do their research work. The supply of government publications should be constant and permanent. Nigerian government should be involved in e-government publications and distributions and should be digitizing their publication for easy consultation. This work has made some useful recommendations which if implemented would possibly address some of the problems. What is needed now is a strong effort to make their acquisition and provision very effective and efficient.



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